Neutrino deep-inelastic scattering: new experimental and theoretical results

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Abstract

A review of recent experimental and theoretical studies of characteristics of neutrino deep-inelastic scattering is presented. Special attention is paid to the determination of $\alpha_s$ and $1/Q^2$ non-perturbative effects from the QCD fits to $xF_3$ data at different orders of perturbation theory, with the help of several theoretical methods.

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1 Introduction

The neutrino deep-inelastic scattering (DIS) is continuing to serve as the classical tool for probing the nucleon structure (for reviews, see e.g. Refs. 1) 2)). In the last few years some progress was made in more detailed experimental and theoretical studies of the behaviour of the cross-sections of $\nu N$ DIS, and in the extraction of the structure functions (SFs) $xF_3$ and $F_2$. Among the data that are currently under active analysis are the ones provided by the CCFR/NuTeV collaboration at the Fermilab Tevatron (see e.g. Refs. 3) 4)), the experimental results of the JINR–IHEP Neutrino Detector collaboration 5) collected some time ago at the IHEP (Protvino) U-70 proton synchrotron, and the preliminary data of the CHORUS collaboration, obtained recently at the CERN SPS 6) 7).

The kinematical regions currently available for cross-section measurements are shown on the plot of Fig. 1, taken from Ref. 8). This figure clearly shows that the above-mentioned three experiments were performed in different kinematical regions, which overlap in part only. Thus they provide complementary information about the behaviour of SFs in different regimes. Moreover, additional more precise data for $\nu N$ DIS cross-sections can be obtained in the future at neutrino factories. If the energy of the neutrino beam is fixed at $E_\nu = 50$ GeV, experiments should penetrate into the physical region that was added to Fig. 1 in Ref. 9). This region overlaps in part with those where the above-mentioned three experimental collaborations were working. Therefore, the studies of the data on $\nu N$ DIS characteristics available at present can be important milestones in the planning of more precise DIS experiments at neutrino factories 10).

2 Discussions of some new experimental results

Recent interesting experimental news came from the model-independent re-extraction of the behaviour of the $F_2$ $\nu N$ SF 4) from the CCFR’97 data 3). The re-analysis of Ref. 4), which does not affect previous CCFR’97 $xF_3$ results, removed the widely discussed discrepancy that existed at $x < 0.1$ between the behaviour of CCFR’97 $F_2$ 3) and that obtained by the NMC collaboration 11) from the process of $\mu N$ DIS. In addition to the new extraction of $F_2$ from the differential cross-sections of CCFR, the first measurement of $\Delta xF_3 = xF_3^\nu - xF_3^\mu$ was also performed 4). However, it is important to stress that none of the considered non-perturbative, perturbative, and theoretical effects, including charm production, are still unable to describe the experimental results obtained for $\Delta xF_3$ 12).

The information about the corrected behaviour of CCFR $F_2$ may be really important for the continuation of the work of the CHORUS collaboration. Indeed, in the kinematical region where both sets of $\nu N$ DIS data overlap, the preliminary CHORUS results for $xF_3$ and $F_2$ 7) agree with the ones provided by the CCFR
collaboration in 1997\cite{3}). Therefore, the preliminary CHORUS $F_2$ data should show a pattern identical to that found in the CCFR'97 analysis\cite{3}, i.e. exceeding by 10–15\% $F_2$ NMC measurements at $x < 0.1$. This excess is beyond the existing statistical and systematic errors of discussed DIS experiments. Moreover, the inclusion of these wrong CCFR'97 $F_2$ points into the next-to-leading order (NLO) QCD fits, performed with the help of the DGLAP method\cite{13}, leads to the erroneous low-$x$ behaviour of the gluon distribution $xG(x, 9\text{ GeV}^2) \sim x^{b_G}$ with $b_G = 0.0092 \pm 0.0073$ \cite{14}. It is in evident contradiction with the number, obtained previously from the NLO combined analysis of the data from HERA and the CERN SPS\cite{15}, namely $b_G = -0.267 \pm 0.043$ at $Q_0^2 = 9\text{ GeV}^2$. Taking into account new CCFR model-independent extractions of $F_2$\cite{4}, it seems worthwhile to perform more careful studies of the preliminary CHORUS results. Moreover, it is rather interesting to try to verify from the CHORUS data the experimental behaviour of $\Delta xF_3$, found in Ref.\cite{4}.

It should be stressed that the CHORUS experiment has an attractive feature. Indeed, as can be clearly seen from Fig.1, it provides information about $\nu N$
DIS SFs in the region of rather low $Q^2$ and low $x$, which complement in part the one where the CCFR’97 data were extracted. In this kinematical domain, theoretical contributions of $1/Q^2$ and nuclear corrections can play an important role. Leaving for a while the discussions of power-suppressed terms, we stress that the CHORUS collaboration was using a lead target, while the CCFR target is made of iron. Possibilities are therefore really open to study nuclear effects in neutrino DIS; as shown in calculations reported in Ref. 16), these effects can be of great importance. A comparison of these effects for the cases of $F_2$ and $xF_3$ neutrino DIS SFs is depicted in Fig. 2, constructed for the detailed work of Ref. 10).

Another interesting possibility of DIS experiments is the extraction, from their characteristics, of non-perturbative power-suppressed terms and the values of $\alpha_s(M_Z)$. This question was considered in Refs. 17)–23) in the process of the next-to-next-to-leading order (NNLO) QCD fits to different data, and in Ref. 24), while performing NLO fits to the experimental results for charged-leptons DIS SFs. The most recent outcomes of the NNLO analysis of the CCFR’97 $xF_3$ data 23) will be discussed in the next section. Here it is worth while emphasizing that the works of Refs. 17)–20) 22) 23) agree in their conclusion that the inclusion of the NNLO QCD corrections into the fits has a tendency to decrease the extracted values of non-perturbative $1/Q^2$-terms. Whether this is a general theoretical feature (see e.g. Refs. 25) 26)) or it is related to the lack of precision of the analysed data might be clarified in the future, if the ideas of more detailed experiments on neutrino DIS at neutrino factories 10) are realized.

It should be noted that the situation at NLO is more transparent. Indeed, the Jacobi polynomial fits of Refs. 17) 19) 23) demonstrated that it is then pos-
Table 1: The results of the fit, in Ref. 5), of the IRR model to the data from different neutrino experiments. The value of $\chi^2$ over the number of points (np) is given.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Experiment</th>
<th>$\Lambda^2$ [GeV$^2$]</th>
<th>$\chi^2$/np</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IHEP–JINR</td>
<td>0.69 ± 0.37</td>
<td>3/12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCFR’97</td>
<td>0.36 ± 0.22</td>
<td>253/222</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Possible to determine both $1/Q^2$ twist-4 effects and $\alpha_s(M_Z)$ from the CCFR’97 $xF_3$ experimental results, cut at $Q^2 \geq 5$ GeV$^2$. Moreover, the NLO DGLAP fits of Ref. 14) confirmed this feature, using both $xF_3$ and a cut at $x > 0.1$ on $F_2 \nu N$ CCFR’97 data. A similar conclusion was made in the process of NLO DGLAP fits of intermediate-energy charged leptons data 24). However, it is obvious that it is simpler to detect non-perturbative effects in a smaller $Q^2$-region.

The most recent example of such a determination was given by the NLO DGLAP analysis 5) of DIS neutrino data from JINR–IHEP Neutrino Detector collaboration, which collected rather large statistics (5987 neutrino and 741 antineutrino charged-current events) in a rather low-energy region $0.55 \text{ GeV}^2 \leq Q^2 \leq 20 \text{ GeV}^2$. The non-perturbative $1/Q^2$ correction to the perturbation theory (PT) behaviour of $xF_3$ was parametrized using the infrared renormalon (IRR) model of Ref. 27), namely

$$xF_3(x, Q^2) = x F_3^{PT}(x, Q^2) + \frac{h(x)}{Q^2},$$  \hspace{1cm} (1)

where

$$h(x) = A_2' \int_x^1 \frac{dz}{z} C_{3 IRR}^3(z) p_{NS}(x/z, Q^2),$$  \hspace{1cm} (2)

$C_{3 IRR}^3$ is the IRR model coefficient function, $xp_{NS}(x, Q_0^2) = A x^{b_{NS}} (1 - x)^{c_{NS}}$ is the boundary parton distribution, defined at $Q_0^2 = 0.5 \text{ GeV}^2$ at NLO, and $A_2'$ is the normalization parameter, which should be determined from the fits. It is sometimes expressed through the parameter $\Lambda_3$ as

$$A_2' = -\frac{2C_F}{\beta_0} A_3^2,$$  \hspace{1cm} (3)

where $C_F = 4/3$ and $\beta_0 = (11 - 2/3f)$ is the first coefficient of the QCD $\beta$-function. Fixing $\alpha_s(M_Z) = 0.118$, which corresponds to its world-average value, $\Lambda_3$ was extracted from the fits to the IHEP–JINR Neutrino Detector and CCFR’97 data 5). The results are presented in Table 1, taken from Ref. 5). Note that the two expressions for $\Lambda_3^2$ from Table 1 are comparable within the errors. Averaging the numbers for $\Lambda_3^2$ and transforming them to $A_2'$, the authors of Ref. 5) obtained the following value:

$$A_2' = -0.130 \pm 0.056 \text{ (exp)} \text{ GeV}^2,$$  \hspace{1cm} (4)
where the error includes both statistical and systematic experimental uncertainties. It is in agreement with the value extracted from the NLO Jacobi polynomial analysis of the CCFR’97 $xF_3$ behaviour, cut at $Q^2 \geq 5 \text{GeV}^2$ \textsuperscript{17) 19) 23). Indeed, at NLO, the most detailed fits of Ref. 23) give:

$$A'_2 = -0.125 \pm 0.053 \text{ (stat) \ GeV}^2.$$  \textsuperscript{(5)}

Note, however, that the error in Eq.(5) does not include the systematic uncertainties. Therefore, Eq.(4) is the most precise up-to-date value of the IRR model parameter $A'_2$.

\section{New QCD fits to CCFR $xF_3$ data: NNLO and beyond}

We can start the discussion on the phenomenological application of some new N$^3$LO perturbative QCD results on the coefficient functions of odd moments of $xF_3$ and on the NNLO approximations for the related anomalous dimensions \textsuperscript{28)} (which are complementary to those obtained in Ref. 29) in the case of even moments for the $F_2$ SF of charged-leptons DIS), in combination with the NNLO expressions for the coefficient functions \textsuperscript{30)} that were recently confirmed in Ref. 31).

\subsection{The application of the Jacobi polynomial method}

It is appropriate, at this point to recall the basic ideas of the Jacobi polynomial method \textsuperscript{32)} which was developed in Refs. 33) 34) and was previously used in the analysis of the BCDMS charged-leptons DIS data at NLO \textsuperscript{35)}, and in the non-singlet approximation at NNLO \textsuperscript{36}). In the case of the analysis of the CCFR $xF_3$ data, the Jacobi polynomial method was applied at NLO in Refs. \textsuperscript{37) 38) and proved useful for performing fits at the NNLO \textsuperscript{17) 19) 23) and approximate N$^3$LO levels, 19) 23)} with and without twist-4 corrections (see discussion below).

This method allows the reconstruction of the SF (say $xF_3$) from the finite number of Mellin moments, namely

$$xF^{N_{max}}_3(x, Q^2) = x^\alpha(1-x)^\beta \sum_{n=0}^{N_{max}} \Theta_{n}^{\alpha,\beta}(x) \sum_{j=0}^{n} c_j^{(n)}(\alpha, \beta) M_{j+2,F_3}^{TM C}(Q^2) + \frac{h(x)}{Q^2}, \text{ (6)}$$

where $\Theta_{n}^{\alpha,\beta}$ are the Jacobi orthogonal polynomials with parameters $\alpha, \beta; c_j^{(n)}(\alpha, \beta)$ is the combination of Euler $\Gamma$-functions. It increases factorially with increasing $n$. The Mellin moments $M_{n,F_3}^{TM C}$ include information on the $1/Q^2$ target mass corrections and are defined as

$$M_{n,F_3}^{TM C}(Q^2) = \int_0^1 x^{n-1}F_3^{PT}(x, Q^2)dx + \frac{n(n+1)}{n+2} \frac{M_{nuc}^2}{Q^2} M_{n+2,F_3}(Q^2). \text{ (7)}$$
Table 2: The NNLO results of the parameters $A, b, c$ of the model for $x F_3$ determined, in Ref. 23 and their comparison with the values obtained in Ref. 40). The new ones are marked by bold type.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Order/$N_{max}$</th>
<th>$Q_0^2$</th>
<th>$A$</th>
<th>$b$</th>
<th>$c$</th>
<th>$\chi^2/\text{np}$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NNLO/6</td>
<td>5 GeV$^2$</td>
<td>4.25±0.38</td>
<td>0.66±0.03</td>
<td>3.56±0.07</td>
<td>78.4/86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NNLO/9</td>
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<td>3.73±0.68</td>
<td>0.63±0.05</td>
<td>3.52±0.08</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>NNLO/6</td>
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<td>4.50±0.36</td>
<td>0.65±0.03</td>
<td>3.73±0.07</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>NNLO/9</td>
<td></td>
<td>4.21±0.35</td>
<td>0.63±0.03</td>
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<td>74.2/86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>4.70±0.34</td>
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<td>3.88±0.08</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>NNLO/9</td>
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<td>4.49±0.25</td>
<td>0.63±0.02</td>
<td>3.89±0.06</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>4.11±0.10</td>
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<tr>
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<td>4.74±0.32</td>
<td>0.61±0.02</td>
<td>4.14±0.09</td>
<td>77.8/86</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The contribution of the twist-4 terms to Eq.(6) is parametrized with the help of the function $h(x)$. It will be neglected for our first stage of discussions.

Fixing now the behaviour $x F_3$ at the initial scale $Q_0^2$ as

$$x F_3^{PT}(x, Q_0^2) = A(Q_0^2) e^{b(Q_0^2)} (1 - x)^c(Q_0^2) (1 + \gamma(Q_0^2)),$$

calculating the related Mellin moments and transforming them to experimentally accessible regions with the help of the renormalization group technique at LO, NLO, NNLO and approximate N$^3$LO (the explicit formulae for the renormalization group evolution can be found in Ref. 23), substituting the renormalization-group-improved expression for $M_{n,F_3}^{TMC}(Q^2)$ into Eq. (6), and performing the fits to the experimental data, it is possible to determine 5 parameters, namely $A, b, c, \gamma$ and $\Lambda_{MS}^{(4)}$; this enters the QCD coupling constant $\alpha_s$, defined up to N$^3$LO, by means of the solution of the renormalization group equation for the explicitly known 4-loop approximation of the QCD $\beta$-function 39). In Table 2 the new NNLO results of Ref. 23) for the parameters $A, b, c$ of the model of Eq.(8) are presented. One can notice that, although these results agree with those of Ref. 40) within the statistical errors, the central values of the new numbers are over 0.03 lower, and the new fits have smaller values of $\chi^2$.

It should be stressed that the new multiloop calculations of Ref. 28) allow us to use more moments in Eq. (6), namely $n = 13$, which corresponds to fixing $N_{max} = 9$. All this information was effectively used in Ref. 23). Note that the previous, similar $x F_3$ fits of Refs. 17) 19) were made in the case of $n = 10$ and $N_{max} = 6$; they were using the approximate NNLO expressions for non-singlet anomalous dimensions, obtained from exact NNLO expressions for the anomalous dimensions of even non-singlet moments of $F_2$, calculated in Ref. 29). Thus the considerations of Ref. 23) contain less uncertainties than the previous analysis of Refs. 17) 19). The NNLO and N$^3$LO results for $\Lambda_{MS}^{(4)}$ obtained in Ref. 23) in the process of twist-4
Table 3: The $Q_0^2$ and $N_{max}$ dependence of $\Lambda^{(4)}_{\overline{MS}}$ (in MeV) from Ref. 23. The values of $\chi^2$ are presented in parenthesis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$N_{max}$</th>
<th>$Q_0^2$ (GeV$^2$)</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>20</th>
<th>50</th>
<th>100</th>
</tr>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>(78.8)</td>
<td>(78.7)</td>
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<td>(77.4)</td>
<td>(78.3)</td>
<td>(78.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
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<td>(75.8)</td>
<td>(76.7)</td>
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</tr>
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<td>N$^3$LO</td>
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<td>(75.6)</td>
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<td>(78.2)</td>
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<td>(77.3)</td>
<td>(77.2)</td>
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<td>(75.7)</td>
<td>(76.4)</td>
<td>(76.7)</td>
<td>(76.8)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Independent fits, are presented in Table 3. One can see that the application of new information from Ref. 28, which allowed $N_{max}$ in Eq. (6) to go from 6 to 9, leads to better stability of $\Lambda^{(4)}_{\overline{MS}}$ with respect to changes of the initial scale $Q_0^2$, and decreases the values of $\chi^2$.

It is interesting to compare the NNLO results for $b(Q_0^2)$ from Table 2, which are almost $Q_0^2$-independent, with the calculations of the small-$x$ asymptotic behaviour of non-singlet contributions to $F_1$ and the spin-dependent SF $g_1$ performed in Ref. 41 in all orders of 1-loop expression for $\alpha_s$, using in part the approach developed in Ref. 42. In the process of calculations of Ref. 41 the following 1-loop formula for $\alpha_s$ was used

$$\alpha_s(s) = \frac{4\pi}{\beta_0 \ln(-s/\Lambda^2)} = \frac{4\pi}{\beta_0 [\ln(s/\Lambda^2) - i\pi]}$$

$$= \frac{4\pi}{\beta_0} \left[ \frac{\ln(s/\Lambda^2)}{\ln^2(s/\Lambda^2) + \pi^2} + \frac{i\pi}{\ln^2(s/\Lambda^2) + \pi^2} \right],$$

where $\Lambda = \Lambda^{(f=3)} = 0.1$. Note that the idea of taking into account the effects of $\pi^2$-terms in the perturbative expansion parameter is not new. It was previously used in a number of works on the subject 43–46 for recent applications see in particular Ref. 47 and Ref. 48 where other related works were discussed as well.

The solution of the corresponding equations, which will not be presented
Figure 3: Dependence of $\omega_0$ on $\eta = \ln(\mu^2/\Lambda^2)$. 1: for $F_1^{NS}$, 2: for $g_1^{NS}$, 3 and 4: for $F_1^{NS}$ and $g_1^{NS}$, respectively, without accounting for the $\pi^2$-terms (from Ref. 41). The results of the fits of Ref. 23) are added.

here, and the application of Eq. (9) allowed the authors of Ref. 41) to obtain the following small-$x$ asymptotic behaviour of $F_1^{NS}$ and $g_1^{NS}$:

\[
F_1^{NS} \sim \left( \frac{1}{x} \right) \omega_0^{(+)} \left( \frac{Q^2}{\mu^2} \right)^{\omega_0^{(+)} / 2} \]
\[
g_1^{NS} \sim \left( \frac{1}{x} \right) \omega_0^{(-)} \left( \frac{Q^2}{\mu^2} \right)^{\omega_0^{(-)} / 2} \]

where the powers $\omega_0^{(+)}$ and $\omega_0^{(-)}$ are drawn in Fig. 3, taken from Ref. 41). This plot is supplemented with the bounds on the values of $\omega_0 = 1 - b(Q_0^2)$, which come from the results presented in Table 2 and obtained in the process of the fits to the CCFR’97 data for the non-singlet SF $x F_3$, performed in Ref. 23) for $Q_0^2 \geq 5$ GeV$^2$. These values are lying in the area limited by straight lines, with the centre at $\omega_0 = 0.37$ shown in Fig. 3. It is worth trying to understand in more detail the possible relations between the results of Ref. 41) and those of Ref. 23). Note, in particular, that the comparison seems to be more legitimate in the region $\eta \geq 8$, namely for $Q^2 > \mu^2 = 30$ GeV$^2$, than for low values of $\eta$, where the $\pi^2$-effects are playing the dominant role. This region is not considerably affected even by the transformation from $\Lambda^{(3)} \approx 0.1$ GeV, used in Ref. 41), to $\Lambda^{(3)} \approx 0.4$ GeV, which follows from the $Q_0^2$-independent numbers of Table 3, obtained when $N_{max}$ is fixed to 9 in Eq. (6).
Consider now some other results of the work of Ref. 23), and in particular the extraction of twist-4 contributions and the value of $\alpha_s(M_Z)$ at various orders of perturbation theory. To model the $1/Q^2$-term $h(x)$ in Eq. (6), three approaches were used in Ref. 23). The first one is the IRR model of Ref. 27) (see Eq. (2)).

After taking the Mellin moments from Eq. (2) and applying the NNLO and N$^3$LO fits to the CCFR’97 $xF_3$ data, the reductions of the NLO value of $A'_2$, presented in Eq. (5), were observed. At the NNLO and N$^3$LO the expressions for $A'_2$ become comparable with zero, within the statistical errors 23), namely
\begin{align}
\text{NNLO} & : \quad A'_2 = -0.013 \pm 0.051 \text{ GeV}^2 \\
\text{N}^3\text{LO} & : \quad A'_2 = 0.038 \pm 0.051 \text{ GeV}^2.
\end{align}
However, the related $\alpha_s(M_Z)$ results were determined in Ref. 23) with reasonable errors:
\begin{align}
\text{NLO} & : \quad \alpha_s(M_Z) = 0.1194 \pm 0.0022 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.005 \text{ (syst)} \quad (12) \\
& \quad \pm 0.0018 \text{ (thresh)} \pm 0.003 \text{ (scale)} \\
\text{NNLO} & : \quad \alpha_s(M_Z) = 0.1188 \pm 0.0022 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.005 \text{ (syst)} \\
& \quad \pm 0.0017 \text{ (thresh)} \pm 0.0038 \text{ (scale)} \\
\text{N}^3\text{LO} & : \quad \alpha_s(M_Z) = 0.1188 \pm 0.0022 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.005 \text{ (syst)} \\
& \quad \pm 0.0017 \text{ (thresh)} \pm 0.0017 \text{ (scale)}
\end{align}
where the first theoretical uncertainty is due to the ambiguities of taking into account threshold effects while transforming the results for $\Lambda^{(5)}_{\overline{MS}}$ to a world with $f = 5$ numbers of active flavours (for a detailed explanation of how this uncertainty was fixed using the matching conditions of Ref. 49), see Ref. 23) and references therein) and the scale-dependence uncertainty was determined by choosing the factorization and renormalization scales $\mu_F^2 = \mu_R^2 = \mu^2_{\overline{MS}} k$ and varying $k$ in the conventional interval $1/4 \leq k \leq 4$. One can notice the drastic reduction of the scale-dependence uncertainties as a result of adding NNLO and N$^3$LO perturbative QCD corrections into the fits, tabulated in the case of $f = 4$ in Ref. 23) (note that at the N$^3$LO the contributions to expanded anomalous-dimension terms were modelled using [1/1] Padé approximants).

The results for $\alpha_s(M_Z)$, presented in Eq. (12), should be compared with the ones obtained from the twist-4 independent Jacobi polynomial fits to the CCFR’97 data at $N_{\text{max}} = 9$ 23), which give
\begin{align}
\text{NLO} & : \quad \alpha_s(M_Z) = 0.1177 \pm 0.0024 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.005 \text{ (syst)} \quad (13) \\
& \quad \pm 0.00177 \text{ (thresh)} \pm 0.00047 \text{ (scale)} \\
\text{NNLO} & : \quad \alpha_s(M_Z) = 0.1188 \pm 0.0022 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.005 \text{ (syst)} \\
& \quad \pm 0.0017 \text{ (thresh)} \pm 0.0027 \text{ (scale)} \\
\text{N}^3\text{LO} & : \quad \alpha_s(M_Z) = 0.1184 \pm 0.0022 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.005 \text{ (syst)} \\
& \quad \pm 0.0017 \text{ (thresh)} \pm 0.0009 \text{ (scale)}
\end{align}
Notice that the effective minimization of the twist-4 contributions at the NNLO and N^3LO (see Eq. (11)) is leading to rather closed NNLO and N^3LO values of $\alpha_s(M_Z)$, which were obtained from the fits with and without $1/Q^2$ corrections.

It is worth stressing that errors on the scale dependence of the NLO and NNLO results from Eq. (13) have definite support. Indeed, they are in agreement with the independent estimates

$$\Delta \alpha_s(M_Z)_{NLO} = +0.006^{+0.0025}_{-0.0015}, \quad \Delta \alpha_s(M_Z)_{NNLO} = +0.006^{+0.0025}_{-0.0015}, \quad (14)$$

obtained in Ref. [50], which use the model constructed in this work for the NNLO NS DGLAP kernel.

In order to study the second possibility of modelling $1/Q^2$-effects using the parametrization of $h(x)$ by free constants $h_i = h(x_i)$, where $x_i$ are the points in the experimental data binning, 9 parameters $h_i$ were used in Ref. [23]. This choice distinguishes new fits from the ones performed in Refs. [17] [19], where 16 variables $h_i$ were used. The minimization of the number of free parameters was motivated by the works of Refs. [24] [14], where it was demonstrated that a decrease in the number of fitted high-twist parameters decreases the correlation between their errors and make their extraction more reliable (the problems of estimating theoretical uncertainties in the case of the choice of 16 free parameters $h_i$ were also discussed in Ref. [51]). The choice of a smaller number of $h_i$ results in a more reliable description of the $x$-shape of $h(x)$ for the fits to the CCFR $xF_3$ data. As in the process of the analogous fits of Refs. [17] [19], the LO and NLO $x$-shapes of $h(x)$ obtained in Ref. [23] are in agreement with the prediction of the IRR model of Ref. [27]. The new NNLO and N^3LO results of Ref. [23], in agreement with the above-discussed tendency to an overall minimization of the extracted contribution of $h(x)$, reveal some new feature, namely an indication of an oscillating-type behaviour of $h(x)$ around $x = 0$, albeit with rather small amplitude.

The third model of $1/Q^2$-corrections, considered in Ref. [23], is directly expressed in terms of Mellin moments, namely

$$M_n^{HT}(Q^2) = n \frac{B'_2}{Q^2} M_n^{F_3}(Q^2) \quad (15)$$

with the free parameter $B'_2$. It is identical to the model used in Ref. [21] for fixing theoretical uncertainties of the extraction of $\alpha_s(M_Z)$ at NNLO with the help of the Bernstein polynomial technique, which will be discussed below.

In Ref. [23] it was shown that the precision of the CCFR’97 $xF_3$ data allows a determination of the value of $B'_2$ together with $\alpha_s(M_Z)$ both at LO and NLO. However, as in the cases of the previous two models for $1/Q^2$-corrections, considered in Ref. [23], NNLO perturbative QCD effects screen the contribution of non-perturbative $1/Q^2$-corrections, defined through Eq. (15). It should be recalled,
in these circumstances, that the QCD fits of Ref. 52) to BEBC–Gargamelle 53) and CDHS 54) neutrino DIS data, performed over 20 years ago, did not allow a discrimination between $1/Q^2$ and the logarithmic description of scaling violation to be made. Therefore, it is possible to conclude that present neutrino DIS data now have become more precise. Indeed, their analysis shifted the effect of perturbative screening of $1/Q^2$-corrections from LO to NNLO. The next generation of more detailed tests of QCD in neutrino DIS is now on the agenda 10).

3.2 The application of the Bernstein polynomial method

In this part of our mini-review the basic steps of the Bernstein polynomial approach, proposed in Ref. 55) and recently used in the process of NNLO fits to the CCFR’97 $xF_3$ data in Ref. 21), will be recalled. The basic constructions of this approach are the Bernstein averages for the $xF_3$ SF:

$$F_{nk}^{F_3}(Q^2) = \int_0^1 dx p_{nk}(x) x F_3(x, Q^2) ,$$

where $p_{nk}(x)$ are the Bernstein polynomials, which can be presented, when $k \leq n$, in the following form:

$$p_{nk}(x) = p(n, k) \sum_{l=0}^{n-k} \frac{(-1)^l}{l!(n-k-l)!} x^{2(k+l)+1} ,$$

where $p(n, k)$ is defined as (see e.g. 21)):

$$p(n, k) = \frac{2(n-k)! \Gamma(n + \frac{3}{2})}{\Gamma(k + \frac{1}{2}) \Gamma(n-k+1)} .$$

Using Eqs. (16)–(18), it is possible to express the Bernstein averages for $xF_3$ through $xF_3$ odd Mellin moments as:

$$F_{nk}^{F_3}(Q^2) = p(n, k) \sum_{l=0}^{n-k} \frac{(-1)^l}{l!(n-k-l)!} M_{2(k+2l+1),F_3}(Q^2) .$$

The next step is similar to the one used in the process of applications of the Jacobi polynomial technique. At some initial scale $Q_0^2$, $xF_3$ can be parametrized through Eq.(8), several odd Mellin moments of $xF_3$ at $Q_0^2$ defined and then transformed using NNLO renormalization group equations at the appropriate values of $Q^2$, which enter into the kinematical region of the analysed experimental data. Forming now Bernstein averages of Eq. (18) it is possible to fit them to their experimental values. In the case of the CCFR’97 $xF_3$ data, fits were made in the kinematical region $7.9 \text{ GeV}^2 \leq Q^2 \leq 125.9 \text{ GeV}^2$ 21). The following numbers for $\alpha_s(M_Z)$ were obtained 21) from these fits:

$$\begin{align*}
\text{NLO} & : \quad \alpha_s(M_Z) = 0.116 \pm 0.004 \ (\text{exp}) \\
\text{NNLO} & : \quad \alpha_s(M_Z) = 0.1153 \pm 0.004 \ (\text{exp}) ,
\end{align*}$$

The final NNLO expression, which includes the estimates of some theoretical uncertainties, is\(^{(21)}\):

\[
\text{NNLO : } \alpha_s(M_Z) = 0.1153 \pm 0.0041 \text{ (exp)} \pm 0.0061 \text{ (theor)},
\]

It is worth while to mention that, despite the qualitative agreement, the central NLO values of Eq.(20), obtained with the help of the Bernstein polynomial technique, are lower than the existing determinations of \(\alpha_s(M_Z)\) from the CCFR'97 \(xF_3\) data, which result from the NLO DGLAP analysis\(^{(3),(14)}\) and the application of the Jacobi polynomial technique\(^{(17),(19),(23)}\). Moreover, at NNLO, the result of Eq. (21) intersects with the NNLO determination of \(\alpha_s(M_Z)\) of Ref.\(^{(23)}\) (see Eqs.(12) and (13)) within existing errors only. The comparison between the results of the Jacobi and Bernstein polynomial determinations of \(\alpha_s(M_Z)\) and of the related theoretical uncertainties was presented in Ref.\(^{(23)}\). In the process of these studies, definite disagreements were revealed between some results of the works of Ref.\(^{(21)}\) and Ref.\(^{(23)}\). The origin of these disagreements is unclear at present and stimulates a more detailed analysis of the NNLO realizations of the Jacobi and Bernstein polynomial approaches. Note, however, that the definite choice of the scale parameter in the Jacobi polynomial fits leads to improving the agreement of the results of applications of the two methods\(^{(23)}\). In view of this observation, it is possible that the results of Ref.\(^{(21)}\) contain larger theoretical uncertainties due to the neglect of scale-dependence ambiguities. On the other hand, contrary to the Bernstein polynomial analysis, the NNLO Jacobi polynomial fits of Ref.\(^{(23)}\) also used approximate information about the values of the NNLO corrections to anomalous dimensions of even moments of \(xF_3\). It should be stressed that this approximation can be eliminated after completing the program of explicit calculations of NNLO contributions to non-singlet DGLAP kernels, which is now in progress\(^{(56)}\). As to the current applications of the DGLAP method in the concrete NNLO fits to DIS data, they can in principle be based on the machinery of the Bayesian treatment of systematic errors of DIS data (see e.g. Ref.\(^{(15)}\)) and the approximate NNLO models of DGLAP kernels, constructed in Refs.\(^{(50),(57),(58)}\).
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